ing with the approval of all the countries involved, with head-quarters in Karachi. India is represented by FICCI.

पत्रकारों के लिए पेंशन योजना

*17. **श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह** : क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) सरकार ने पत्रकार पेंशन योजना के संबंध में क्या कार्यवाही की है;

(ख) यह योजना कब तक लागू की जाएगी;

(ग) क्या इस योजना में उन मान्यता प्राप्त पत्रकारों को भी शामिल किया जाएगा, जो पहले ही सेवा-निवृत्त हो चुके हैं, और

(घ) यदि हां, तो किस तारीख तक सेवा-निवृत्त पत्रकारों को इस योजना में शामिल किया जाएगा ?

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री पबन सिंह घटोबर) : (क) और (ख) पत्रकारों सहित कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि के अंशदाताओं के लिए एक पेंशन योजना का प्रारूप तैयार करने के लिए सरकार को शक्ति प्रदान करने के लिए कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि एवं प्रकीर्ण उपबंध अधिनियम को संशोधित करने के लिए 29-3-1993 को राज्य सभा में एक विधेयक लाया गया है । योजना को 01-04-1993 से लागू करने का निर्णय लिया गया है ।

(ग) और (घ) प्रस्तावित पेंशन योजना में 1-4-1993 को या उसके बाद सेवा-निवृत्त होने वाले व्यक्ति शामिल किए जाएंगे । 1-4-1993 से पहले सेवा-निवृत्त होने वाले व्यक्तियों को शामिल किए जाने संबंधी कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है ।

*18[Transferred to 29th April 1993]

International Programme on Elimination of Child Labour

*19. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE :

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJI RAO SHINDE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that as a part of the 13th World Congress on occupational safety and health held at New Delhi in April this year, an International Programme on elimination of Child labour was launched;

(b) if so, what are the details of the programme;

(c) what were the main observations and suggestions made during the Congress; and

(d whether any comprehensive programme has been drawn out in the light thereof for abolition of Child labour which is one of the fundamental goals of the ILO?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) to (d) As part of the XIII World Congress on Occupational Safety and Health held in New Delhi recently a Workshop on the Hazards to the Safety and Health of Working Children was held under the International Programme on the Eliminations of Child Labour (IPEC). The IPEC was formally launched on January 20, 1993 based on the Memorandum of Understanding entered between the Government of India and the International Labour Organisation in the second quarter of 1992.

The IPEC is being executed by ILO with financial assistance from Germany and other donor countries. The programme has been launched with the objective of reducing the incidence of child lobour and its progressive elimination. The programme mainly seeks to complement the resources and the efforts made by the participating countries in order to enable them, within the context of their national policies, to promote conditions for achieving this objective. It also envisages bringing about an increased awareness in the international community for this purpose. A major component of IPEC is to encourage, promote and support voluntary and other organisations in implementing action-oriented programmes at field level, within the framework of national policies and programmes related to child labour.

The Programme Steering Committee in ILO, of which India is a member, has earmarked US $ 2.25 million (equivalent to Rs. 6.97 crores approx.) for this programme in India for the period ending 31st December, 1993.

A copy of the Conclusions of the IPEC Workshop on the Hazards to the Safety and Health of Working Children is presented in the Annexure.

Conclusions

Situation analysis

1. Child Labour is closely associated with poor and hazardous working conditions. Since the majority of children in hazardous work is hidden away from public view (in homes, on plantations and small factories), special efforts are required to identify them and understand their situation.

2. The stage of physical and psychological immaturity makes the child worker particularly vulnerable to the hazards of the work place.

3. Since child labour is normally linked to poverty, some of the hazards stem from inadequate living conditions such as poor sanitation and nutrition and exposure to endemic diseases.

4. Because children are defenceless, they are subjected to long working hours, usfair remuneration and psychological and physical abuse.

5. In agriculture, the specific hazards are exposure to the weather, to toxic substances such as pesticides and fertilizers, and the handling of machinery that is inappropriate for children and is poorly maintained. Attention was drawn to the fact that child labour in agriculture including in family holdings is becoming more and more hazardous due to mechanization and increased use of chemicals;

6. In industries, children suffer from environmental hazards such as fumes and dust, poor light, high levels of noise, and the presence of toxic gases. They also handle dangerous substances such as acids and alkalis, heavy metals and carcinogens (like benzene)

7. In the service sector which includes domestic servants, hawkers and peddlers, bus conductors, and prostitutes, the most common risk are kitchen accidents, road accidents, involvement in illicit activities, and exposure to sexually. Transmitted diseases.

8. Particular concern was raised about bonded child labour because it carries multiple hazards to the development of the child.

9. Contrary to common expectations, working children are also exposed to hazards in home based jobs, which should therefore receive due attention.

10. The consequences of the hazards to the children's health and development are many : Injuries, poisoning, respiratory problems, skin diseases, crippling and disabling delinquency, psychological disorders and others.

Suggested action

11. Some local surveys on hazardous child work have been presented; they show that children are frequently exposed to serious hazards at work; concern was expressed on the inadequate information and data; more studies of wider coverage should be conducted;

12. An inventory guide on hazardous work of children should be compiled and disseminated amongst the participants of the workshop to support additional research;

13. There is a need to identify priority areas to improve legislation and adopt appropriate policies;

14. The possibility should be examined to establish committees at the national level for investigating occupations hazardous to working children;

15. Officials of labour and factory inspectorates need training for proper enforcement of child labour legislation;

16. Since children are not covered by social security, their work accidents are not reported; ILO should encourage member countries to collect statistics on work accidents of children; legislation should oblige employers to compensate for injuries and illness of working children;

17. Bonded child labour was identified as an area of priority due to its intrinsic and multiple hazards;

18. Amongst the more general measures that should be taken to protect children from hazards associated with work, the following were suggested-Medical monitoring and assistance, immunization, improved nutrition, non-formal education; shelter, counselling, improvement of working and employment conditions, raising of children's awareness on work hazards, and vocational initiation.

19. The need for more awareness raising on the hazards to health and safety of working children was stressed and it was suggested, amongst other measures, that media should be widely used.

Export potential of Indian agricultural products

*20. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is Government's assessment about the export potential of Indian agricultural products, both raw and processed, in the world market;

(b) what target has been kept in view, in terms of export earnings with respect to these products, for the ensuing year 1993-94, while formulating the Exim Policy announced on March 31, 1993; and

(c) what specific steps are contemplated to make Indian agriculture export oriented as distinct from mere self sustaining one, including the creation of food preservation and food processing capacity ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) :

(a) to (c) India has a natural comparative advantage in agricultural exports because of our lower import needs, reasonable labour costs and our diverse agro-climatic conditions. India exports a wide variety of agricultural commodities like spices, suger, cashew, rice, fruits and vegitables, processed foods, products of fruits and vegetables, tobacco, etc.

Government have taken various steps to create an environment which is fevourable to exports, including export of agricultural products and processed foods from the country. Such measures include the exchange rate adjustments, the introduction of a unified exchange rate, the expension of the definition of 'manufacture' and 'capital goods' in the EXIM Policy to include agricultural and allied activities simplification in compulsory pre-shipment inspection procedures, lowering of customs duties on capital goods and inputs, assured availability of export credit on softer terms and the extension of the benefits of 100% EOU Scheme to the exporters in the agricultural sector, who export atleast 50% of their turnover.

It is the policy of the Government to promote export of agricultural commodi-